



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— The fiftieth meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science was held at Swansea, beginning August 26th. The inaugural address of the president, Prof. A. C. Ramsay, was on the recurrence of certain phenomena in geological time. It was a contribution to the doctrine of uniformitarianism. He claimed that the deposition of the Laurentian rocks took place far from the beginning of recognized geological time; that the phenomena of metamorphism extend from that date all through the later formations down to and including part of the Eocene strata; that volcanic forces played no more important part in any period of geological time than in our modern epoch, that the formation of mountain chains has gone on with increasing vigor from before the deposition of Silurian rocks to Pliocene times; that the deposition of salts from aqueous solutions in inland lakes and lagoons appears to have taken place through all time; that glacial phenomena began with the Cambrian epoch. He concludes, therefore, that the earliest of the physical events alluded to by him were so enormously removed from the primitive events assumed by the nebular hypothesis, "that they appear to me to have been of comparatively quite modern occurrence, and to indicate that from the Laurentian epoch down to the present day all the physical events in the history of the earth have varied neither in kind nor in intensity from those of which we now have experience." The address of H. C. Sorby, president of the section of geology, was on the comparative structure of artificial slags and erupted rocks, there being a gradual passage from one type to the other. The address of Dr. Günther, president of the section of biology, was on museums, with especial reference to the British Museum. The address of Mr. Balfour in the department of Anatomy and Physiology, was on recent progress in embryology, and is a valuable résumé of our present knowledge of the origin of the different anatomical systems of the animal body, with especial reference to the genesis of the nervous system.

— A London paper of recent date gives the following particulars of an extraordinary match at rat killing. "Hollinwood, near Manchester, was the scene of a rather novel rat-killing match the other day, between Mr. Benson's fox terrier dog, Turk, and a Mr. Lewis's monkey, for £5. The conditions of the match were that each one had to kill twelve rats, and the one that finished them the quickest to be declared the winner. You may guess what excitement this would cause in the 'doggy' circle. It was agreed that Turk was to finish his twelve rats first, which he did, and in good time, too, many bets being made on the dog after he had finished them. After a few minutes had elapsed it now came the monkey's turn, and a commotion it caused. Time being called, the monkey was immediately put to his twelve rats, Mr.

Lewis, the owner, at the same time putting his hand in his coat pocket and handing the monkey a peculiar hammer. This was a surprise to the onlookers; but the monkey was not long in getting to work with his hammer, and, once at work, he was not long in completing the task set before him. You may talk about a dog being quick at rat-killing, but he is really not in it with the monkey and his hammer. Had the monkey been left in the ring much longer you could not have told that his victims had been rats at all—he was for leaving them in all shapes. Suffice it to say the monkey won with ease, having time to spare at the finish. Most persons present (including Mr. Benson, the owner of the dog) thought the monkey would worry the rats in the same manner as a dog does; but the conditions said to kill, and the monkey killed with a vengeance, and won the £5, besides a lot of bets for his owner.

— The French Government has, according to *Nature*, during the past summer carried on deep sea explorations in the Bay of Biscay in the steamer *Travailleur*, of 900 tons. The naturalists of the expedition were M. A. Milne-Edwards and Profs. Marion and Perier; Messrs. J. Gwyn-Jeffreys and A. Norman, of England, being present by invitation. Twenty-three dredgings were made at depths ranging from 337 to 2600 mètres. Those between 600 and 1000 fathoms were the most important. Nearly every class of invertebrates was represented; novelties being discovered in Mollusks, Crustacea, Echinoderms, Annelides, Actinozoa and sponges. A submarine valley was found to exist within a few miles of the coast, opening from the Fosse de Cap Breton and extending to a point opposite Cap Penas. The zoölogical results of this expedition, says Mr. Jeffreys, are fully equal in importance to those made by Capt. Baudon in 1801, M. d'Urville in 1829, the *Recherche* in 1835, the *Astrolabe* in 1841 and other French expeditions.

— We are glad to announce to our readers that Prof. Chas. E. Bessey, of Iowa Agricultural College, has kindly consented to edit the Department of Botany of the AMERICAN NATURALIST. Prof. Bessey is the author of the Botany for High Schools and Colleges, one of Holt's American Science Series, and was late Lecturer on Botany in the University of California. We feel sure that the magazine will greatly profit by this addition to its editorial force, and would ask botanists to lend him all possible assistance.

— The French Association met the last week in August at Rheims, about 500 members being present, exclusive of local members. The address of M. Perier on transformism was to the end that the doctrine of evolution was a scientific mistake, though its first advocate, Lamarck, was a Frenchman.

— It appears that the surgeon of the ill-fated *Atlanta*, which is

supposed to have foundered at sea, was Dr. E. L. Moss, a good observer of nature, who contributed some excellent papers on marine animals to the publications of English scientific societies, and withal was an excellent artist.

— Augustin Seguin and Jules Luquet, two eminent civil engineers from Lyon, France, are now visiting the Yellowstone National Park. Within two years a railroad will be completed which will render this park very accessible.

— A list of preparations of Phylloxera, its natural enemies and of other insects living on the vine, has been published by Dr. Adolph Blankenhorn, of Karlsruhe.

— The Italian Government has recently made the liberal appropriation of 1,000,000 lire for a Geological Survey of Italy.

—:O:—

## PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, Philadelphia, March 16.—Mr. J. A. Ryder described *Trichopetalum lunatum*, and spoke on Podo-phrys and Epistylus; he also described *Camaraphysema obscura*. Mr. Potts spoke on Vorticella.

March 23.—Dr. H. C. Chapman remarked on the generative apparatus of Elephas. Mr. Ryder described a new order of myriapods, Symphyla.

March 30.—Mr. Ryder spoke farther on Symphyla. Mr. Meehan on advancement of vegetation. Dr. H. Allen on the olfactory sense in mammals. Mr. Ryder on Epistylis. Mr. Potts on Vorticella.

April 13.—Dr. Jos. Leidy remarked on Entomostracans and Infusoria in ponds near Woodbury, N. J. Mr. Meehan on Sarcodes.

April 20.—Mr. J. S. Kingsley spoke on cell division.

April 27.—Mr. H. C. McCook remarked on honey ants. Mr. Jos. Willcox on the habits of the blue heron.

May 4.—Mr. McCook remarked on honey ants. Mr. Isaac Martindale on parasitic plants. Mr. Potts on Spongilla.

May 11.—Prof. Pike spoke on fossil impressions supposed to have been made by jelly fishes. Mr. Ford on eggs of mollusks.

May 18.—Dr. Chapman spoke on the anatomy of the orang-outang. Messrs. Ford and Potts on the nidus of Natica.

May 25.—Dr. A. J. Parker spoke on the brain of the chimpanzee.

June 1.—Mr. J. A. Ryder described a species of Japyx. Prof. S. S. Haldeman spoke on stone implements. Mr. Edw. Potts remarked on the embryo of Natica.

June 8.—Dr. Francis Dercum spoke on the lateral lines in fishes. Mr. E. Potts on the anatomy of pipe fish.